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2 June 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Medical Staff

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Division

SUBJECT : A Progress Note

REFERENCE : Memoranda to Chief, Medical Staff, dated 27 March 1958  
and 2 May 1958, Subject: Career Program for Overseas  
Medical Officers

1. This represents the second revision of the original paper, for the purpose of bringing it up to date with discussions by the Career Board.
2. The initial report tied together the idea of an Overseas Career Group and a Training Program, which it was felt would make such a Group possible. The first Career Board discussion was general, concerning itself largely with comments on the type of training which might or might not be desirable. Although there were many differences of opinion, it was felt that common ground could be attained by shortening the projected training period but retaining the formal nature of the program.
3. The second discussion examined more closely the fundamental thesis: that of the desirability of an "Overseas Career Group" as such. The opposition to this idea was keynoted by DC/OD. Management, he pointed out, has demonstrated that an individual's productivity begins to decline rather abruptly somewhere around the fourth year of an overseas assignment. They apparently do not go on to say whether he will be revived only by a tour in Washington or whether another overseas station would do as well. DC/OD also observed that rotation of personnel between Headquarters and overseas stations should not only freshen the thinking of both parties; but should, as well, create a bond of understanding between Headquarters and overseas personnel. The logic of this latter statement is unassailable, but its arithmetical application may certainly be questioned.
4. It was further pointed out, by the Chief of the Medical Staff, that there were potentially six positions here in Washington which could be rotated with overseas slots. This alone would obviate the necessity for a separate Overseas Group, as this would provide almost an equal number of overseas and stateside positions.

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5. Placed in its proper perspective then, the "Overseas Career Program" is of rather smaller proportions than those first applied by its author. It definitely fails to meet the exacting requirements of a total Career Program. However, it is felt that it can still become a facet of that Program; that it can be considered one of the several alternatives offered by this Agency. It is not inconceivable that, in some individual cases, such a career as initially outlined might be appropriate.

/S/

[Redacted Signature]

M.D.

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